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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

Handbook of Yosemite National Park.—HALL¹ has edited a volume of information in reference to Yosemite National Park. He has also written the chapter on trees, but the volume is really the combined product of more than a dozen specialists, and appears to be decidedly superior to the handbooks usually available for the guidance of travelers. The ideas and policy of actuating the best minds of the nation in the creation, administration, and use of such parks are admirably set forth by STEPHEN T. MATHER, Director United States National Park Service.

Several professors of the University of California have contributed chapters on their own subjects, KROEBER dealing with the anthropology, LAWSON with the geology, GRINNELL with the animal life and its distribution according to life zones, VAN DYKE with the insects, and JEPSON with the plant life. All these accounts are in attractive style and are scientifically accurate. JEPSON's chapter on the *Sequoia* seems to be particularly happy in presenting the life problems of these great trees in attractive and accurate form. His treatment of the wild flowers is based upon ecological principles, and here, in common with the other chapters of the book, there is appended a sufficient bibliography to lead the interested traveler or student into the available literature upon the subject.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Plant analysis.—Stechert and Company have recently republished GREENISH'S translation of DRAGENDORF'S Plant analysis, qualitative and quantitative.²—WM. CROCKER.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Mutation.—For the past two decades the term mutation has held a very prominent place in the vocabulary and thought of biologists, yet most of us have had a very inexact understanding of the phenomena involved. Even now an understanding of the causes is probably quite remote, but at least our

¹ HALL, ANSELL T., Handbook of Yosemite National Park. 12 mo. pp. ix+347. *pls. 27* and map. New York: Putman's Sons. 1921. \$2.50.

² DRAGENDORF, G., Plant analysis, qualitative and quantitative. pp. vii+280. Translated by HENRY G. GREENISH. 1883.